

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 NEA-14 IO-14 ISO-00 PM-07 NSC-07 SP-03 SS-20

RSC-01 AF-10 EB-11 FEA-02 L-03 H-03 CIAE-00 INR-10

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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0765

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 16954

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EEC, XF

SUBJECT: EC-ARAB DIALOGUE

REF: A) BONN 10940; B) PARIS 15597

1. QUAI ISRAEL/JORDAN DESK OFFICER BELLEISSUE CONFIRMED
TO US JULY 11 THAT ARAB LEAGUE SECRETARY GENERAL RIAD
AND KUWAITI FOREIGN MINISTER SABAH AL-AHMAD WILL MEET
IN PARIS JULY 31 WITH FONMIN SAUVAGNARGUES AND EC
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COMMISSION PRESIDENT ORTOLI. BELLEISSUE SAID THE

ARABS HAD HAD DIFFICULTY IN CHOOSING THEIR REPRESENTATIVES. THERE HAD BEEN OBJECTIONS BY ONE ARAB COUNTRY OR ANOTHER TO ALGERIA, EGYPT AND SAUDI ARABIA, THE THREE STATES WHICH THE FRENCH HAD BEEN GIVEN TO UNDERSTAND IN CAIRO LAST MONTH WOULD MOST LIKELY BE SELECTED TO OPEN THE DIALOGUE WITH THE EC PRESIDENCY. TUNISIA OBJECTED TO ALGERIA AS MAGHREB REPRESENTATIVE, IRAQ OPPOSED SAUDI ARABIA AND LEBANON PLAYED A SPOILERS ROLE, HE SAID. BELLEISSUE DISCOUNTED, BUT WITHOUT CONVICTION, THE SUGGESTION THAT KUWAIT WOULD BE A LESS VALID INTERLOCUTOR THAN THE THREE LARGER ARAB COUNTRIES. HE ADDED THAT FONMIN FAHMI WOULD PROBABLY VISIT PARIS ANYWAY IN LATE JULY OR EARLY AUGUST TO ATTEND MEETINGS OF THE FRANCO-EGYPTIAN JOINT COMMISSION.

2. BELLEISSUE SAID THE ARABS HAVE NOT YET GIVEN THEIR REACTION TO THE PROPOSALS MADE TO THEM BY EC REPRESENTATIVES IN CAIRO LAST MONTH. HE EXPECTED THAT THE ARABS WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO PRESENT MUCH OF SUBSTANCE CONCERNING THE WORK OF THE PROPOSED COMMISSIONS WHEN THEY COME TO PARIS JULY 31 SINCE THEY ARE NOT EQUIPPED TO DRAW UP SUCH TECHNICAL PROPOSITIONS. ONE THING WAS CLEAR, HE SAID. THE ARABS DO NOT WISH "LIKE RUG MERCHANTS" TO CONFINE THE DIALOGUE TO ECONOMIC MATTERS BUT WANT IT TO HAVE A POLITICAL DIMENSION. THIS WILL BE DIFFICULT, BELLEISSUE NOTED, SINCE ANY POLITICAL CONTENT IS APT TO TOUCH UPON U. S. PEACE-MAKING EFFORTS IN THE MIDDLE EAST WHICH THE EUROPEANS ARE DETERMINED NOT TO DISRUPT. BELLEISSUE SAID THAT WHILE THE JOINT COMMISSIONS MIGHT BE SET UP IN EARLY AUGUST, THEIR WORK WILL PROBABLY NOT BEGIN UNTIL SEPTEMBER. HE AGREED TO FILL US IN NEXT WEEK ON THE WORK OF THE EC MIDDLE EAST EXPERTS WHO ARE MEETING IN PARIS JULY 11.

IRWIN

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